



FIRST THINGS FIRST

The right system for bright futures

QUALITY FIRST! COACHING AND INCENTIVES GRANT

REQUEST FOR GRANT APPLICATION

RFGA #FTF-STATE-09-QUAL-0002-00

FACT SHEET

WHAT IS THE QUALITY FIRST! COACHING AND INCENTIVES GRANT?

First Things First will fund the successful Applicant(s) to implement particular components of a comprehensive quality improvement and rating system (QIRS) for Arizona's early care and education community serving children birth through age five. The system developed for Arizona is named "Quality First!". Quality early care and education is a national issue critical to long-term success for Arizona's children. Research continues to identify several interwoven factors that affect the quality of care children receive and the impacts on their development and long-term education and health.

First Things First has developed Quality First! to include the following components:

- Assessment of early care and education centers and homes (RFGA #FTF-STATE-09-QUAL-0001-00)
- Coaching and consultation to assist centers and homes to improve their level of quality (RFGA #FTF-STATE-09-QUAL-0002-00)
- Specific linkages with the First Things First T.E.A.C.H. (Teachers Education and Compensation Helps) program to promote professional development
- Specific linkages with the First Things First Child Care Health Consultation (CCHC) program
- Incentives to achieve stated quality improvement goals (RFGA # FTF-STATE-09-QUAL-0002-00)
- Assignment of ratings for child care centers and homes (to be implemented in 2010)

The goal of this funding opportunity is to provide on-site, assets-based coaching and consultation to early care and education centers and homes enrolled in Quality First!. Desired outcomes of this funding opportunity include improved quality of early care and education through collaboration between the Coaches and the providers enrolled in Quality First!.

WHAT WILL THE REQUEST FOR GRANT APPLICATION (RFGA) FUND?

Funding through this opportunity will cover costs associated with providing an initial orientation, development of a Quality Improvement Plan, on-going coaching based on the Quality Improvement Plan, completion of Quality Improvement Grants and distribution of incentives.

This funding opportunity for Coaching and Incentives is also designed to dovetail seamlessly with the unique needs and recommendations produced by the initial and ongoing assessment conducted at each participating center or home. The Assessment component of Quality First! will be completed by the successful Applicant of RFGA # FTF-STATE-09-QUAL-0001-00. The successful Applicant(s) of this RFGA must collaborate with the administrator of the Assessment component. First Things First will be responsible for the enrollment of centers and homes into Quality First! and will then share enrollee information with the successful Applicant(s) of this RFGA. The successful Applicant(s) are also required to collaborate directly with and refer participating center and home providers to the First Things First T.E.A.C.H. program (Teachers Education and Compensation Helps) for scholarship opportunities, as well as make referrals to and work collaboratively with the First Things First Child Care Health Consultant as determined in the Quality Improvement Plans.

Applicant(s) should be able to deliver coaching on a variety of topics including, but not limited to, general early childhood development and health, including children with disabilities and mental health needs. Successful Applicant(s) will demonstrate a willingness to work with each participating center or home and maximize funding to deliver technical assistance in the most meaningful, efficient manner. Although individual coaching may be necessary in many cases, Applicant(s) should be aware that, with limited funding, designing innovative delivery methods should be a high priority.

Successful Applicant(s) of this funding opportunity will also be responsible for the administration of Quality First! incentives to participating early care and education centers and homes, based upon an approved Quality Improvement Grant.

Applicant(s) must implement the Coaching and Incentives component of Quality First! within at least one First Things First geographically defined Regional Area, which are further defined in the RFGA.

WHAT IS THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF FUNDING AVAILABLE?

This is a seven (7) month contract with an option for renewal for two additional 12-month periods. Total funds available for the Coaching and Incentives Contract will not exceed \$2,400,000 (\$1,100,000 for Coaching and \$1,300,000 for incentives) for the first funding period

and \$2,350,000 in incentives and \$1,800,000 in Coaching for each of the remaining two years (\$10,700,000 total for the entire term of this project). Contract renewal will be contingent upon satisfactory contract performance, evaluation and availability of funds.

The anticipated contract period for any resultant grant will be December 8, 2008 to June 30, 2008.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR THESE FUNDS?

Pursuant to Arizona Revised Statute 41-2701, "Grant" means the furnishing of financial or other assistance, including state funds or federal grant funds, by any state governmental unit to any "person" for the purpose of supporting or stimulating educational, cultural, social or economic quality of life. "Person" means any corporation, business, individual, committee, club or other organization or group of individuals.

The Applicant(s) must demonstrate successfully the ability to meet the requirements described in the RFGA.

PROPOSED TIMELINE FOR THE GRANT MAKING PROCESS

September 12, 2008	Notice of Intent/Fact Sheet available to the public
September 15, 2008	RFGA available on-line
September 26, 2008	Pre-application Conference First Things First, 8 th floor board room, 1:00 p.m.-3:00 pm. at 4000 N. Central Ave., Ste. 800, Phoenix, AZ 85012
October 27, 2008	Applications due to the First Things First office by 3:00 p.m.
December 8, 2008	Anticipated grant awards made

HOW TO GET A COPY OF THE RFGA.

Please visit the First Things First web site on or after September 15, 2008:

<http://www.azftf.gov/>

QUESTIONS?

All questions must be submitted in writing to the Grants and Contracts Procurement Specialist via fax (602) 265-0009 or grants@azftf.gov.